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## TURKEY.

*Sanitary report from Constantinople.*

[Report No. 203.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, *November 10, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the diseases which prevail actually in Constantinople are smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever. Five hundred and forty-five deaths have been registered from October 17 to November 7. Of these, 3 are from measles, 16 from diphtheria, 16 from typhoid fever, and 55 from smallpox. The last is raging fiercely, and it does not spare vaccinated persons whose vaccine dates only eighteen months before. I must state that the authorities are doing their best to check the epidemic.

*Sanitary news from the provinces.*—The sanitary news from the provinces states that diphtheria broke out in Serres. Whooping cough, as well as typhoid fever, prevailed in the island of Rhodes. From Djiddah the sanitary physician reports that the authorities, as well as the population, are doing their best in order to improve the sanitary condition of said town. Their aim is to prevent, if it is possible, the outbreak of the epidemic of plague which did so much harm last year during the pilgrimage on account of the quarantine. The streets of Djiddah are now clean and the municipality has taken the necessary steps in order to have the city always in good sanitary condition.

*Regulations concerning the importation of corpses.*—At the last sitting of the International Sanitary Commission it was decided to bury at the boundary line the corpses which are brought from Persia and which do not fulfill the conditions required by the sanitary regulations. According to the religious customs of the Moslem shiites, their corpses must be buried in the holy land of Nedjif, on the south of the Euphrates, therefore they carry their corpses there. According to the sanitary regulations said corpses can not be imported to Turkey until three years after they have been buried in Persia; that is to say, that only bones can be imported. There are always some exceptions for high-standing personages belonging, for instance, to the prince's families. The sanitary physician at Haneguine, on the Persian boundary line, reports that said corpses are carried in a state of putrefaction, very dangerous to public health.

*Plague in Samarcande.*—As soon as the news of the outbreak of the bubonic plague epidemic in Samarcande was communicated, an extraordinary meeting of the International Sanitary Commission was held, in which it was decided to require disinfection at the lazaretto of Cavak, at the entrance of the Bosphorus, of arrivals from Central Asia who pass through Constantinople going to the Hedjaz; and at the same meeting it was decided to watch the sanitary condition of Persia, where said dreadful epidemic may be spread unnoticed, and wherefrom we are exposed to all dangers.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,  
*United States Sanitary Commissioner.*